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Mule deer. Front cover photo: Jon Jourdonnais
Red lily. Inside front cover photo: Danny On
Mute Swan. Back cover DFWP photo: Mike Aderhold

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American goldfinch: Alan Nelson

From the rolling grasslands and rugged badlands of eastern Montana to the lush valleys and alpine expanses of western Montana, our state has its share of wild places. It also has its share of wildlife, as the photographs in this special pictorial issue of Montana Outdoors amply attest.

From country lane to mountaintop, from moose to hummingbird, from dragonfly to monkeyflower, our photographers have provided a visual feast of Montana's priceless natural treasures. After looking at these photos, we think you will agree that Montana doesn't take a backseat to anywhere in terms of wildlife diversity. We also think you will agree that Montana has the finest wildlife photographers of any region in the country. These talented people—who, incidentally, contribute their work without pay—deserve a sincere vote of thanks from our readers.

We also hope that these pictures will convey a very important message to you. Wildlife cannot speak out with words to influence the decisions that decide their fate. They cannot cry out for protection of their marshes, forests, prairies, rivers and mountains. But perhaps they can reach you with their beauty, grace and vulnerability.

The list of Americans who have been touched by wildlife and have spoken out in their behalf over the history of our country is a long and distinguished one. Men and women of vision, courage and eloquence—Theodore Roosevelt, William O. Douglas, John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Charles Lindbergh, Jr., and K. Ross Toole, to name a few—have raised their voices for the conservation of wildlife and wild places. Some of their thoughts are included in this issue.

Yesterday's conservationists have kept alive the torch of wildlife conservation down through the decades, sometimes against overwhelming odds. A new generation must now come forward and accept this torch, and carry it with pride and determination. Today, more than ever before, your voice is needed in the chorus that speaks for America's outdoor heritage.—Editors

"We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills, the winding streams with tangled growth as wild. Only to the white man was nature a wilderness, and only to him was the land infested with wild animals and savage people. To us it was tame. The earth was beautiful and we were surrounded with blessings of the great mystery."

—Luther Standing Bear
Oglala Sioux

Ptarmigan: Danny On
Avalanche Creek, Glacier National Park: Danny On

"Is civilization progress? The challenge, I think, is clear; and, as clearly, the final answer will be given not by our amassing of knowledge, or by the discoveries of our science, or by the speed of our aircraft, but by the effect our civilized activities as a whole have upon the quality of our planet's life—the life of plants and animals as well as that of men."

—Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr.

Bighorn lamb: Danny On
Bighorn sheep group: Jon Cates

Osprey: Tony C. Caprio
Mushroom: Tony C. Caprio
Calliope hummingbird: Alan Nelson
(following page) Sparring elk: Bill McRae

"The most important fact about Spaceship Earth: An instruction book didn't come with it."

—Buckminster Fuller

"Beyond all plans and programs, true conservation is ultimately something of the mind—an ideal of men who cherish their past and believe in their future. Our civilization will be measured by its fidelity to this ideal as surely as by its art and poetry and system of justice."

—Stewart L. Udall

Short-eared owl: Louis M. Kis
Bald eagle: Louis M. Kis

Hoary marmot: Jim Romo
Plains cactus (prickly pear): Jim Romo

"Man must be able to escape civilization if he is to survive. Some of his greatest needs are for refuges and retreats where he can recapture for a day or a week the primitive conditions of life.

"When man worships at the feet of avalanche lilies or discovers the delicacy of the pasqueflower, or finds the faint perfume of the phlox on rocky ridges, he will come to know that the real glories are in God's creations. When he feels the wind blowing through him on a high peak or sleeps under closely matted whitebark pine in an exposed basin, he is apt to find his relation to the universe."

—William O. Douglas

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area: Donald R. Cory
Silhouetted tree, Bighorn County: Dean Biggins

"There are windless days in all seasons when the air seems so fragile, so utterly pure, that you remember them with much more immediacy than you do the weeks of blustery torment. These perfect days, but moments in relation to the whole, have a lightness that is both seen and felt. . . .

"Balanced there on the end of the natural calendar, like a candle almost burned out, these cherished days are a blend of hope and resignation. Game and waterfowl begin to migrate; there is movement, change, anticipation. There is also the hard reality of the coming winter. . . ."

—Russell Chatham

Boulder River Valley: Paul Dix
Nighttime scenic, Bridger Mountains: Paul Dix
Cormorants: DFWP photo, Mike Gurnett
(following page) Giant silkworm moth: Stephen J. Lavely

"The earth can be an abundant mother if we learn to use her with skill and wisdom—to tend to her wounds, replenish her vitality, and utilize her potentialities."

—John F. Kennedy

Moose: Vince Fischer
Whistling swan: DFWP photo, Tom Warren
Mule deer fawn: Louis M. Kis

Sunset at Ninepipe Reservoir: Larry Thompson
Horned grebe: Harry Engels
Raccoon: Tom Maurer

"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own; and from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, is but a succession of changes so gentle and easy that we can scarcely mark their progress."

—Charles Dickens

Cross-country skiing in the Cabinet Mountains: Peter Kagan
Adult dragonfly, newly emerged from its nymphal stage: Peter Kagan

"The earth's vegetation is part of a web of life in which there are intimate and essential relations between plants and the earth, between plants and other plants, between plants and animals. Sometimes we have no choice but to disturb these relationships, but we should do so thoughtfully, with full awareness that what we do may have consequences remote in time and place."

—Rachel Carson

Porcupine: Steve Wirt
Red monkeyflower: Steve Wirt

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. By land is meant all of the things on, over, or in the earth. Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left. That is to say, you cannot love game and hate predators; you cannot conserve the waters and waste the ranges; you cannot build

Mountain lion: Jerry Manley

the forest and mine the farm. The land is one organism. Its parts, like our own parts, compete with each other and cooperate with each other. The competitions are as much a part of the inner workings as the cooperations. You can regulate them—cautiously—but not abolish them."

—William A. Breyfogle

Hatching western meadowlarks: DFWP photo, Kristi DuBois
Rainbow scenic: Jon Jourdonnais

"For the hunter is the joy of the horse well ridden and the rifle well held; for him the long days of toil and hardship, resolutely endured and crowned at the end with triumph. In after-years there shall come forever to his mind the memory of endless prairies shimmering in the bright sun; of vast snow-clad wastes lying desolate under gray skies; of the melancholy marshes; of the rush of mighty rivers; of the breath of the evergreen forest in summer; of the crooning of ice-armored pines at the touch of the winds of winter; of cataracts roaring between hoary mountain masses; of all the innumerable sights and sounds of the wilderness; of its immensity and mystery; and of the silences that brood in its depths."

—Theodore Roosevelt

Elk: Mike Logan
Hunting in the Sun River: Mike Logan

Sharp-tailed grouse: Dean Biggins
Milkweed (seed stage): DFWP photo, Mike Aderhold
Medicine Lake: DFWP photo, Mike Aderhold

"Nature is the living,
visible garment of God."
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"These are things which other nations can never recover. Should we lose them, we could not recover them either. The generation now living may very well be that which will make the irrevocable decision whether or not America will continue to be for centuries to come the one great nation which had the foresight to preserve an important part of its heritage. If we do not preserve it, then we shall have diminished by just that much the unique privilege of being an American."

—Joseph Wood Krutch

Scenic east of Glacier National Park: Jon Cates
Mountain goat: Bill McRae

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area: Paul Dix
Tree-lined lane in winter: Stephen J. Lavely

"East or west there is that profound quietness lying just beneath the surface of the small sounds the land makes. And within twenty minutes of slow driving from any city in Montana, you are suddenly in it—and alone. It has always been there—and you feel it, that old, that primitive affinity for where you came from some limitless time ago."

—K. Ross Toole